implications of the increase in the prices of petroleum products and have taken several measures both on the demand and supply side towards keeping these pressures under check. These include, release of adequate quantities of foodgrains, sugar etc. for distribution under Public Distribution System, curbing growth of liquidity in the system to keep demand under check and checking the speculative tendencies.

**Low capacity utilization by HDP woven sack, units in Gujrat due to the implementation of Jute packing Materials Act, 1987**

33. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that on account of implementation of the Jute Packing Materials Act, 1987 about 150 HDP woven sack units established in Gujarat are working below capacity;

(b) whether any representations have been received by Government for taking remedial steps by way of reducing percentage of production to be packed jute packing materia] for the cement and fertilizer units located in Gujarat; and

(c) If so, what action has been taken/ proposed to be taken by Government to ensure survival of the large number of SSI units which are going Sick due to operation of the Order?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Plastic Sacking or HDPE units from different parts of the country including from Gujarat have been representing from time to time that the Reservation Orders issued by the Government in terms of the provisions of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 have affected their capacity utilization and economic viability. Government are of the view that the interests of the traditional jute packaging sector and the synthetic plastic units should be harmonised and both of them should co-exist by having a legitimate share of the packaging of various sectors of the economy, *viz* foodgrains, sugar, cement and fertilizers, Keeping this objective in view the Reservation Orders have been in force over the last three years which has provided in the opinion of the Government reasonable share for the jute as well as synthetic sacking units. Government of India in consulation with the Government of Gujarat have also initiated a dialogue with the synthetic woven sack units in this state in order to bring about harmonised co-existence between Jute and HDPE units.

**Production and Export of black Pepper**

34. SHRI M. M. JACOB; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of black pepper exported during the last five years year-wise and the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(b) whether Government are contemp lating any major scheme to increase pro duction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL); (a) Export of black pepper from 1985-86 to 1989-90 has been as follows:—

| Year | Qty (MT) | Value (Rs. Lacs) |
|---|---|---|
| 1985-86 | 37620 | 17248 |
| 1986-87 | 37083 | 20033 |
| 1987-88 | 41011 | 24058 |
| 1988-89 | 38020 | 16420 |
| 1989-90 • | 36601 | 15988 |

(b) Yes, Sir.

During the 8th Five Year Plan period there is a proposal to take up integrated programme for development of spices